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## City of San Marcos

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## NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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### City-County Soccer Complex Dedication Slated Sept. 18

The City of San Marcos and Hays County will dedicate the new 43-acre soccer complex at Five-Mile Dam Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2010.

The ribbon cutting ceremony culminates an eight-year, \$4.5 million partnership between the City of San Marcos and Hays County to create a soccer complex that will become home to local, regional and statewide competitions.



**READY TO GO:** The Five-Mile Dam Soccer Complex, including 43 acres of soccer fields, concession stand and other amenities, will be dedicated on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. (Photo by Don Anders)

location for sport tourism, attracting visitors from across the state and contributing to our local economy."

The opening tournament over Labor Day weekend attracted more than 3,000 competitors and spectators. The complex features 10 full size soccer fields, a large concession building with a meeting room and office, picnic area, 850 feet of limestone seats, and a one mile sidewalk around the fields.

On hand for the dedication will be San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz, Hays County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, and members of the Commissioners Court, City Council, board volunteers, the Greater San Marcos Youth Soccer League, City staff, and contractors.

"This wonderful soccer complex provides a great new venue for healthy sports activities for our youth" said Mayor Narvaiz. "In addition, it helps realize the goal of our City Council to establish San Marcos as a prime



**SOLAR ENERGY** panels will help reduce energy costs for fields. (Photo by Don Anders)



BIRD'S EYE VIEW: An aerial view of the Five-Mile Dam Soccer Complex on the Blanco River during the first tournament over Labor Day Weekend. (Photo courtesy of RP Flight Systems)

Through grants and other funding, Hays County contributed more than \$2 million for design and engineering, infrastructure work, a Playscape, pavilion, lighting, trails and xeriscaping for the 43-acres it purchased in 2004 that now is home to soccer fields and other improvements.

Additionally, some \$700,000 from the 2007 park bond funds was provided to the City of San Marcos for the soccer complex improvements.

“Hays County was pleased to partner with the City of San Marcos to make our bond funds go farther in providing additional recreational options for Hays County residents,” Debbie Ingalsbe, Commissioner Precinct 1, said. “The Five Mile Dam Park Complex provides an inviting, accessible and much-needed recreational space for the entire family, whether your interests are in organized sports, watching your children have fun at the Playscape, taking a cool swim or just sitting back to enjoy nature.”

Funding has come from the Hays County Parks Bond Program, City of San Marcos Capital Projects, grants from the U.S. Department of Interior and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Lower Colorado River Authority, U.S. Soccer Foundation, and Carma Developers.

The soccer complex adjoins the County’s Dudley Johnson and Randall Vetter parks along the San Marcos River. Those river-front parks, with walking trails and picnic areas, provide a natural green space for swimming and boating that complement the new park’s soccer fields and Playscape.



ACTION: Competition on the 10 soccer fields has already begun with some 3,000 people attending a Labor Day tournament. (Stephen Sundquist photo)

## History of the Parks:

The 5-Mile Dam Park Complex consists of three separate parks, the Hays County's Dudley C. Johnson Park (15.56 ac) and Randall Wade Vetter Memorial Park (17.859 ac) and the City of San Marcos- Hays County 43 acre, 10 field soccer complex.

On May 10, 1973, Tom C. Johnson and his wife Hazel G. Johnson deeded 14.36 acres to Hays County for the sum of \$10. This conveyance was subject to the property forever be a public park to be known as "Dudley C. Johnson Park," and that grantee build and maintain a substantial fence along the Southeast boundary line. Thereafter, 1.2 acres was gifted to the county by Stanley Hughson to serve as a drainage easement.

On August 9, 2001 Hays County acquired 17.859 acres adjacent to the south end of Dudley Johnson Park. The property was purchased from the "Dam Blanco Partners" for \$150,000, a price substantially lower than the appraised value of \$210,000. It was named by the Hays County Commissioners Court in memory of Texas Department of Public Safety Officer Randall Wade Vetter who was killed nearby in 2000.